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## Railways.

*Railway from Arantangi to Karaikudi.*

112 Q.—Rao Bahadur A. M. Murugappa Chettiyar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether there is any scheme under the consideration of the Government for the construction of a railway from Arantangi to Karaikudi, and if so, whether the scheme is likely to be taken up in the immediate future?

A.—Yes. The question is under the consideration of the Railway Board.

*Aid to local bodies for railway construction.*

113 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government and the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether it is the intention of the Government to aid local bodies by means of loans or otherwise in the work of railway construction?

A.—The Government have not yet come to any decision. They are awaiting a reply from the Government of India to a reference made to them on the subject.

*Financial aid to district boards for expenditure on Railways.*

114 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government and the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state whether the Government have addressed the Government of India to set apart a portion of the loan funds, or of the 150 crores set apart for Railways, to assist such district boards as have a substantial sum at their disposal for expenditure on Railways?

A.—The answer is in the negative.

*The Tanjore district board railway.*

115 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government and the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state the percentage borne by working expenses to gross earnings on the several district board railway lines, and, if the percentage is high in the case of the Tanjore district board railway, the reasons for the marked increase?

A.—The information is not available.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"I think it is a matter of some importance if the working expenses bear a high percentage to the gross earnings. Therefore, will the Government be pleased to call for the information?"

The hon. the Raja of Panagal:—"I have no objection to call for the information."

*The Tanjore district board railway.*

116 Q.—Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government and the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tanjore district board has been asked by the Government of Madras to consider a proposal to sell its railway to the South Indian Railway Company; and

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(b) whether it is a fact that the time-table arranged by the South Indian Railway Company works to the detriment of the district board railway ?

A.—(a) No, but a proposal to sell to the Government of India has been made.

(b) The Government have no information.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know, Sir, whether the proposal to sell the district board railway to the Government of India has been sent to the district board and whether any reply has been received from them and, if so, what the nature of the reply is ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Their reply has not yet been received."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" There is a statement here, Sir, that the South Indian Railway Company has arranged its time-table to the detriment of the district board railway. Government say that they have no information. Will they be pleased to call for the information ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" It is not a matter within the cognizance of this Government and on that ground possibly the question itself was not admissible ; but we did not raise that point. The details of Railway management are a matter concerning the Railway Board and should be discussed in the Legislative Assembly and not in this House."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" The question of the admissibility or otherwise of the question is a matter entirely in your hands, Sir, and the question has been admitted and the Government have given an answer that they have no information. The time-table of the South Indian Railway Company and its working to the detriment of the district board railway are matters with which we are concerned, because after all district boards are administered by a Member of the Cabinet who is supposed to be responsible to this House, whatever the fact may be."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" May I know, Sir, whether the hon. Gentleman is asking a supplementary question or raising a point of order, or making a speech at large, and if the latter, whether he is in order in making a speech ? "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I am raising a point of order and putting a supplementary question. My point of order is this : that the question having once been admitted and answered by the Government in a particular manner, it is not open to any hon. Member of this House to raise a point of order on that matter at this stage."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" If the reference is to me, I did not raise any point of order."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" No one disputed the admissibility of the question : so there is really no point of order here. The hon. Member may go on with the supplementary question, if he has any."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I will ask the hon. the Home Member to consider whether the fact that the time-table of the South Indian Railway Company works to the detriment of the Tanjore District Board Railway is not a matter . . . ."

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The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" My hon. Friend is asking me to consider something that is not exactly a supplementary question."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I wish to be allowed to finish my sentence. The time-table of the South Indian Railway Company working to the detriment of the District Board Railway is within our cognizance. I may suggest that the profit or loss of the Tanjore District Board is a matter with which we are concerned ; the district board is administered by us. Therefore, I am asking whether the Government will be pleased to call for the information in view of this statement ? "

*Railway line between Erode and Satyamangalam.*

117 *Q.*—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the district board of Coimbatore has resolved to construct a railway line between Erode and Satyamangalam ; and whether an application has been made to the Government for financial aid ; and

(*b*) whether the Government have any intention of rendering any financial help of any shape whatever ; and if so, when, and to what extent ?

*A.*—(*a*) In October 1921 the Coimbatore district board proposed to take up the Erode-Satyamangalam line and applied to Government for a loan of Rs. 25 lakhs to construct it. In view of the Secretary of State's decision approving the reconversion of the Erode-Trichinopoly line to broad gauge the district board was informed that the Erode-Satyamangalam line would no longer form part of a through metre gauge route between Mysore and South India. The board was requested to re-examine the project on its own merits as an isolated district board line on a 2′ 6″ gauge or as a tram line. The district board has not reported its views.

(*b*) It is not possible to answer this question at the present stage.

## Registration.

*Departmental punishment of Sub-Registrars.*

118 *Q.*—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Minister for Education (Registration) be pleased to state—

(1) the number of Brahman and non-Brahman Sub-Registrars who were awarded punishments of the following description since the assumption of charge by the present Inspector-General of Registration :—(*a*) Fine ; (*b*) stoppage of annual increment (i) for six months and (ii) for twelve months ; (*c*) (i) suspension for three months and less, (ii) suspension for more than three months but less than six months, (iii) suspension for more than six months but less than twelve months, (iv) suspension for more than twelve months ; and (*d*) dismissal ;

(2) in how many cases petitions for reconsideration of these punishments were received (*a*) from Brahman Sub-Registrars, (*b*) from non-Brahman Sub-Registrars ; and